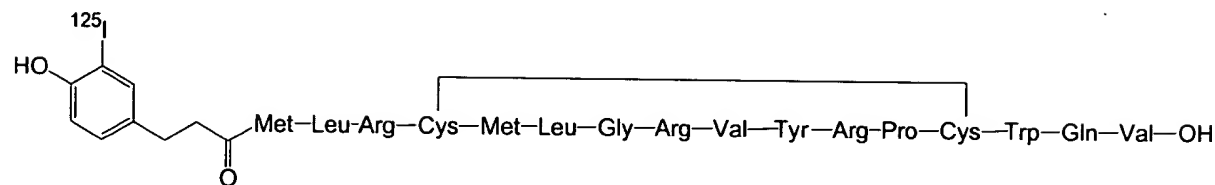


**Amendments To The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

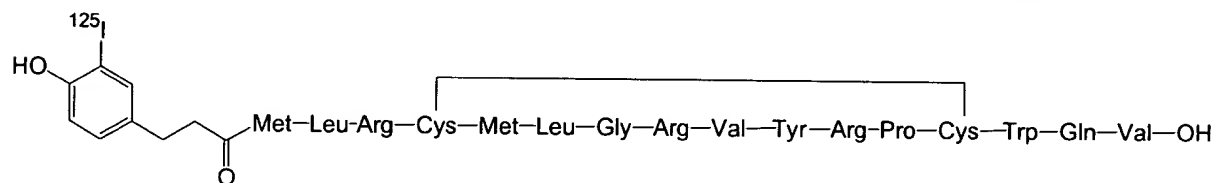
Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for screening a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between  $[^{125}\text{I}][\text{N}-(3-(4\text{-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl})\text{-met}^4]\text{-MCH}(4\text{-}19)$  a ~~melanin concentrating hormone (MCH) or its salt~~ and SLC-1 or its salt, which comprises:  
measuring the amount of the  $[^{125}\text{I}][\text{N}-(3-(4\text{-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl})\text{-met}^4]\text{-MCH}(4\text{-}19)$  bound to the SLC-1, (i) when the  $[^{125}\text{I}][\text{N}-(3-(4\text{-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl})\text{-met}^4]\text{-MCH}(4\text{-}19)$  is brought into contact with the SLC-1 or a salt thereof, and (ii) when a test compound and the  $[^{125}\text{I}][\text{N}-(3-(4\text{-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl})\text{-met}^4]\text{-MCH}(4\text{-}19)$  are brought into contact with the SLC-1 or a salt thereof; and  
comparing (i) and (ii) using the MCH or its derivative, or a salt thereof and the SLC-1 or its salt.
2. (Currently Amended) A kit for screening a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between  $[^{125}\text{I}][\text{N}-(3-(4\text{-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl})\text{-met}^4]\text{-MCH}(4\text{-}19)$  ~~MCH or its salt~~ and SLC-1 or its salt, which comprises  $[^{125}\text{I}][\text{N}-(3-(4\text{-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl})\text{-met}^4]\text{-MCH}(4\text{-}19)$  and a buffer comprising the MCH or its derivative, or a salt thereof and the SLC-1 or its salt.
- 3-11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently Amended)  $[^{125}\text{I}][\text{N}-(3-(4\text{-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl})\text{-met}^4]\text{-MCH}(4\text{-}19)$  which is ~~A compound~~ represented by the following formula:



or its salt.

13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ][N-(3-(4-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl)-met<sup>4</sup>]-MCH(4-19) is represented by the following formula:



14. (New) The kit according to claim 2, wherein the [ $^{125}\text{I}$ ][N-(3-(4-hydroxy-3-iodophenyl)propionyl)-met<sup>4</sup>]-MCH(4-19) is represented by the following formula:

